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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

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CC92-77

September 16, 1994

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Mr. James A. Holder
Sheriff
Sunflower County
Indianola, MS 38751

Dear Mr. Holder:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's Billed Party Preference (BPP) proceeding. I appreciate your comments. On May 19, 1994, the Commission adopted a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in this proceeding. I have enclosed a copy of the Further Notice and press release accompanying it for your information.

The Further Notice sets forth a detailed cost/benefit analysis of BPP. This analysis indicates, based on the available data, that the benefits of BPP to consumers would exceed its costs. The Further Notice seeks comment on this analysis and asks interested parties to supplement the record concerning the costs and benefits of BPP. The Further Notice also invites parties to recommend alternatives to BPP that could produce many of the same benefits at a lower cost.

The Further Notice also explicitly seeks comment on whether correctional facility telephones should be exempt if BPP is adopted. Specifically, the Further Notice seeks additional information on the effectiveness and costs of controlling fraud originating on inmate lines with or without BPP. The Further Notice also seeks comment on a proposal to exempt prison telephones from BPP if the operator service provider adheres to rate ceilings for inmate calling services.

BPP would not preclude prison officials from blocking or limiting inmate calls to specific telephone numbers in order to prevent threatening and harassing calls. Moreover, BPP would not affect the ability of prison officials to limit inmates to collect calling or to program telephone equipment at the prison site to block certain numbers.

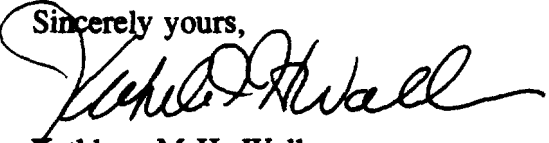
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Mr. James A. Holder
Page 2

Thank you for your interest in this proceeding. I can assure you that the Commission will carefully examine all of the comments submitted in response to the Further Notice, including additional empirical data regarding the costs and benefits of implementing BPP and the impact of BPP on telephone service from correctional facilities.

Sincerely yours,



Kathleen M.H. Wallman
Chief
Common Carrier Bureau

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Thad Cochran

THAD COCHRAN
MISSISSIPPI

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2402

COB
92-117
3941

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY
COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND
ADMINISTRATION
COMMITTEE ON
INDIAN AFFAIRS

August 9, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street
Washington, D. C. 20554

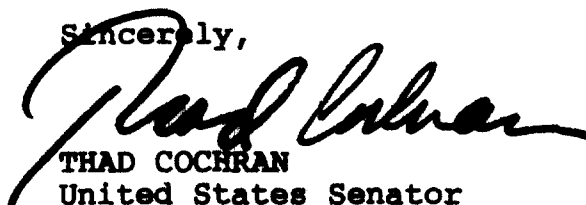
Dear Commissioner Hundt:

Enclosed is a copy of correspondence sent to me by Sheriff
James A. Holder of Sunflower County, Mississippi.

I would appreciate your ~~response to the issues raised in his letter.~~ with a
response to the issues raised in his letter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


THAD COCHRAN
United States Senator

TC/egh
enclosure



NED HOLDER
SHERIFF — SUNFLOWER COUNTY
INDIANOLA, MISSISSIPPI 38751

94 AUG -2 AM 8:44

29 July 1994

Honorable Thad Cochran
U.S. Senate
487 Russell Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Thad,

We at the Sunflower County Jail are concerned about the proposed Billed Party Preference for long distance telephone calls. There are 3 particular area will be affected to our detriment.

1. We will lose blocking control of our inmate phone calls.
2. We will lose a revenue stream and the inmate family phone costs could go up.
3. The potential for fraud will creep back into the systems.

Along with the major concerns, we also see a problem with who is going to pay for all this?

We eagerly oppose the BPP and encourage the FCC to do the same.

Thank you.

James A. (NED) Holder
Sheriff
Sunflower County, Mississippi

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James A. (NED) Holder".

cc; Honorable Thad Cochran
Honorable Trent Lott
Honorable Bennie Thompson
Vic-President Al Gore